

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit

CONTACT: Richard Sampson
831-335-6740

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San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties Burn Suspension Lifted

Felton, CA- Effective Monday October 24, 2016 at 8 a.m. the burn suspension in San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties will be lifted. CAL FIRE San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit Chief, Ian Larkin, is formally cancelling the burn suspension and advises that those possessing current and valid agriculture and hazard reduction burn permits can now resume burning on permissible burn days. Agriculture burns must be inspected by CAL FIRE prior to burning until the end of the peak fire season. Inspections may be required for burns other than agriculture burns as well. This can be verified by contacting your local Air Quality Management District.

CAL FIRE burn permits are required in unincorporated San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties year round. While cooler temperatures have helped to diminish the threat of wildfire, we are still in our sixth year of drought. Property owners and residents are asked to use caution while conducting hazard reduction or agriculture burns, following all guidelines provided, and maintaining control of the fire at all times. Individuals can be held civilly and/or criminally liable for allowing a fire to escape their control and/or burn onto neighboring property.

Members of the public wishing to burn under a valid agricultural or hazard reduction permit MUST verify it is a permissive burn day prior to burning. For more information on how you can help spare the air in San Mateo County you can contact the Bay Area Air Quality Management District at 415-771-6000 or www.baaqmd.gov. For information in Santa Cruz County contact Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District at 831-647-9411 or www.mbuapcd.org. Residents in Santa Cruz County are reminded that the backyard burning season will begin on December 1st.

Pile Burning Requirements

- Only dry, natural vegetative material may be burned.
- The burning of trash, painted wood or other debris is not allowed.
- Do **NOT** burn on windy days.
- Piles should be no larger than four feet in diameter and in height. You can add to pile as it burns down.
- Clear a 10 foot diameter down to bare soil around your piles.
- Have a shovel and a water source nearby.
- An adult is required to be in attendance of the fire at all times.

Safe hazard reduction burning of forest residue by landowners is a crucial tool in reducing fire hazards. State, Federal and Local land management and fire agencies will also be utilizing this same window of opportunity to conduct prescribed burns aimed at reducing fuel accumulations and improving forest health on private and public lands.

For more information on burning, visit the CAL FIRE website at www.fire.ca.gov/czu.

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